

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF, AID

SUBJ: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - MORNING OF MAY 19

1. GENERAL DEBATE CONCLUDED MONDAY AM SESSION AFTER 5 INTERVENTIONS (ITALY, SWEDEN, ZAIRE, RWANDA, THE PHILIPPINES). COMMENTS COVERED WIDE RANGE TOPICS, WITH RWANDA, SWEDEN, AND ZAIRE HIGHLIGHTING NEED FOR GREATER ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND RWANDA ARGUING FOR PARTICIPATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN UNICEF EB. ONLY NEW WRINKLE WAS PROPOSAL BY PHILIPPINES THAT THE EB BE ENLARGED AND BE MADE MORE BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE, A MOVE INTER ALIA WHICH WOULD ALLOW CHINESE TO BE REPRESENTED. PHILIPPINES REP (AMBASSADOR REYES) INDICATED THAT THIS NOT A FORMAL PROPOSAL. WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF IT ELICITED SOME INTEREST THE PHILIPPINES WOULD PURSUE IT NEXT YEAR; IF NOT, THEN UNICEF WOULD "CONTINUE TO BE THE SMALL, COZY, CLOSED CLUB THAT IT HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST THREE DECADES." ADDITIONALLY, PHILIPPINES ARGUED FOR ENLARGEMENT OF UNICEF'S INFORMATION STAFF, CITING RELATIVELY LARGE INFORMATION STAFFS OF UNESCO AND FAO.

2. LABOUISSSE, IN RESPONDING TO GENERAL DEBATE, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS.

- NOTED HIS PLEASURE WITH GENERAL AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANCE,
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E.G. THAT EMERGENCY SITUATION FOR CHILDREN STILL REAL;

THAT THERE IS NEED TO PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES FOR CHILDRE;;
THAT THERE IS NEED FOR DEEPER COMMITMENT BY DCS AND LDCS;
THAT THE SUPPORT OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GA
SHOULD BE SOUGHT.

- AGREED THAT THERE PERHAPS WAS A NEED FOR A BETTER
FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECLARATION OF THE EMERGENCY FOR
CHILDREN.

- WITH REGARD TO FEARS THAT THE INCREASE IN SPECIAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WOULD LESSEN THE ROLE OF REGULAR PROGRAMS,
STATED THAT THE PROGRAMMING OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS
TAKES INTO ACCOUNT LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS AS MUCH
AS POSSIBLE.

- SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE 1976
EB COVERING PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS;

- IN REPLYING TO CRITICISM THAT THE SHARE OF TOTAL PROGRAM
FOR MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH IS DOWN, NOTED THAT WHILE SHARE
DOWN ACTUAL PROGRAM IS UP IN AN ABSOLUTE SENSE.

- REPLYING TO CRITICISM THAT THE SHARE OF EDUCATION IS
DOWN, NOTED THAT THE EB HAD ADOPTED SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR
EDUCATION CALLING FOR A FOCUS ON PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE AND
THAT ACCORDINGLY ASSISTANCE TO SECONDARY LEVEL EDUCATION
HAD BEEN TERMINATED, A DECREASING FACTOR WHICH HAD NOT BEEN
OFFSET BY A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE DIFFICULT ARE
OF INFORMAL EDUCATION.

- IN RESPONSE TO CONCERN THAT THE NEW DIRECTIONS OF UNICEF
MIGHT NOT TIE IN WITH NATIONAL PLANS, REITERATED THAT IT
WAS UNICEF POLICY TO TIE THE TWO TOGETHER.

- SHARED CONCERN OF SOME BOARD MEMBERS THAT THERE TOO
FEW WOMEN IN SENIOR POSITIONS ON UNICEF'S STAFF; NOTED THAT
BECAUSE UNICEF FIELD-MISSION ORIENTED, HOWEVER, THIS
RECRUITMENT OF QUALIFIED WOMEN NOT EASY BUT THAT HE
NEVERTHELESS WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

- WITH REGARD LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, STATED THAT RECORD OF
UNICEF ASSISTANCE WAS GOOD, AND THAT UNICEF NOW PREPARING
FOR INCREASED AID FOR FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

- WITH REGARD PROPOSAL MADE TO STUDY CONDITIONS OF MIGRANT
WORKERS, NOTED THAT SYG HAD ALREADY DONE A STUDY WHICH
SUBMITTED TO SOCIAL COMMISSION THIS YEAR.

- NOTED THAT THE SUCCESS OF A INTERNATIONAL
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YEAR OF THE CHILD WAS DEPENDENT ON WIDE SUPPORT TRANSLATED
INTO MONEY.

- AGREED THAT THE SUBJECT OF UNICEF'S RELATIONS WITH THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEES BE PUT ON NEXT YEAR'S AGENDA.

- WITH REGARD CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT UNICEF'S CAPACITY
TO ADMINISTER A \$500 MILLION PROGRAM, NOTED THAT SOME INCREASE
IN STAFF MAY BE NECESSARY; WITH REGARD NEXT YEAR'S \$250
MILLION PROGRAM, NOTED THAT UNICEF HAS NECESSARY CAPACITY

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